



Lake Edina Neighborhood Roadway Reconstruction

Sept. 13, 2013

Dear Resident:

The reconstruction project in your neighborhood is nearing completion.

Crews are currently working on site cleanup and miscellaneous restoration items in all stages. The contractor will return this week and hydro-seed areas in Stage 3 and add additional seed to areas that did not establish in Stages 1 and 2.

Over the next few weeks, you may see crew members on-site taking care of the remaining details. This includes site cleanup, paving the final layer of bituminous asphalt near the end of the month, and performing a "saw and seal" treatment to the new bituminous pavement, which helps control expansion and contraction of the pavement.

We have received many questions concerning "why hydro-seed and not sod?"

In past projects, lawns disturbed by roadway construction have typically been restored with the use of sod. The contractor was responsible for the establishment of sod for a period of six weeks (42 days) from the date of installation. After the six-week maintenance period, the property owner is then responsible for the sod.

During 2012, residents and staff noticed portions of sod installed during previous construction seasons were not healthy. 2012 saw drought conditions for most of the year. Most of the new sod areas were brown, dormant and/or dead. This reflected badly on the construction project even though continued maintenance of the sod is the responsibility of the homeowner.

City staff hosted a "Construction Contractor Think Tank" meeting in January 2013 to determine the advantages and disadvantages of sod and hydro-seed. We wanted a turf product that property owners could properly maintain to establish long-lasting turf. Staff invited industry experts to this meeting including turf experts, contractors and consultants familiar with City of Edina's practices and clients.

Topics discussed included cost, watering, maintenance periods, proper long-term care, turf color, installation techniques, drought, fertilizer, chemical treatments, equipment, installation dates and foot traffic. It was determined that all construction projects in 2013 would be hydro-seeded in lieu of sod in an effort to keep costs down and provide a long-lasting product that can withstand long-term dry weather conditions. This product was used on the 44th Street Project between France Avenue and Highway 100 during 2011 if you would like to see an example project.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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A final inspection of all hydro-seeded areas will be made as the maintenance period nears completion in each respective stage. Please note, the contractor is required to maintain hydro-seeded areas for a period of 90 growing days from the date of installation. If the maintenance period does not end by Nov. 1, the remaining balance of the maintenance will carry over to 2014 and begin on April 15. Any turf areas' deemed unacceptable at the end of the maintenance period will be re-hydro-seeded at no cost to the contract. The contractor may apply a selected herbicide later in the year to control other weeds as needed. Healthy lawns are the best defense against weeds.

The green mulch material is placed to keep the soil underneath moist for ideal growing conditions. In some cases, the grass may not appear through the mulch material right away. The plant needs to establish a root system that is strong enough to get through the mulch material. Fall seeding also has the benefit that after the first frost of the year, grass tends to limit growth upwards and instead it focuses on establishing a strong root system. This system will assist it in the spring to continue growing.

This may be the final letter you receive from us. The final assessment amount will not be known until around September 2014. At that time, you will receive a notice of the final assessment amount, the date of the assessment hearing and details of the payment options.

Upon completion, the project will be placed in a 2-year warranty period. Palda & Sons, Inc. and the City of Edina staff thank you for your patience and cooperation over the past few months of reconstruction.

Regards,
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